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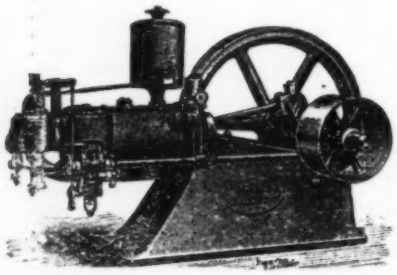

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TANGANYIKA CONCESSIONS.

THE ordinary general meeting of the Tanganyika Concessions, Limited, was held on Thursday at Winchester House, Old Broad-street, E.C., under the presidency of Mr. Tyndale Whyte (the chairman of the company).

The Secretary (Mr. L. Scotland) having read the notice convening the meeting,

The Chairman said that the complete accounts from South Africa had not arrived for the period to June 30 last, so that the board decided to call the shareholders together now, and convene another meeting early in the new year for the consideration of the accounts. The company's success in the valuable discoveries made was due, to a large extent, to the following facts—first, Mr. Williams indicated the exact spot where he said the minerals would probably be found, and sent the first expedition to that spot; second, negotiations were entered into with the special Katanga committee before Mr. Grey arrived at the place indicated, with the result already known to the shareholders; third, the theory always expressed by Mr. Williams as to the deposition of gold in sandstone had turned out to be correct. A letter was then read from Mr. Grey, giving particulars of the new discovery and stating that the "long-expected sandstone bed carrying gold has been found at last." The Zambesi Exploring Company had provided the finance for this company's affairs for some time, so that they were now indebted to that company for over £80,000. In addition to this, the Zambesia Company had, from time to time, sold some of their shares of this company, and given options on others, thus assisting both companies without sacrificing any of their other assets. In order to clear off the indebtedness to the Zambesia Company, and also to enable that company to get back the shares sold, the shareholders were asked to increase the capital of the Tanganyika Company by the creation of 70,600 new shares. If these arrangements were agreed to they would be free from debt, and if all the shares were taken up by the Zambesia Company, as there was reason to hope would be the case, this company would thereby raise upwards of £200,000, thus enabling them to go ahead with their important undertakings, at least until something more definite was decided upon. He concluded by moving the adoption of the report, and the adjournment of the meeting *sine die* until the complete accounts were received from South Africa. Lord Arthur Butler seconded the motion. Mr. Robert Williams (managing director) then addressed the shareholders on the position and prospects of the company. The work laid out by Mr. Farrell (head engineer) had now been completed, and had exposed 15,000,000 tons of ore, or 1,500,000 tons of copper. At the meeting held in 1901 he expressed his belief that they had discovered, in the Katanga district, the first deposition of gold in sandstone since the discovery of the Rand. He then detailed the discoveries since made, and said it appeared probable that they had at last found the key to the source of gold in that district. In the Benguella railway and mineral concession he believed that they held the key to the future economical manipulation of the copper of Katanga and the future highway to Central Africa and the Rand. Thanks to the efforts of Colonel Sir J. Machado and his colleagues of the Benguella Railway board, they had been able to secure an extension of time, allowing them two and a half years to survey and prospect the concession and build the first forty miles of the railway. No one could prophesy about the future of the Benguella concession beyond saying that the indications were certainly promising. During the four years that the company had been in existence they had explored and established themselves almost across Africa. They owned the Kansanshi Mine in Rhodesia, subject to the Chartered Company's receiving 30 per cent. of the vendors' shares when it was formed into a separate undertaking, and they had prospecting rights over about 60,000 square miles of Katanga, and the right to work all mines found for eighty-nine years, in accordance with the agreement, giving the Katanga Committee 60 per cent., they themselves getting 40 per cent. They also owned a half interest in the Benguella concession, with the sole right to prospect over about 120,000 square miles for ten years, and to work all mines in perpetuity, and they had not to give any percentage to the Government. As to the accounts, he hoped that it would be possible to present them before May. The motion was adopted unanimously.

An extraordinary general meeting was subsequently held, at which resolutions were submitted for increasing the capital to £264,600 by the creation of 70,600 new shares of £1 each, approving a conditional agreement providing for the repayment of the moneys advanced by the Zambesia Company, and authorising dealings between this company and the Zambesia Company. The solicitor (Mr. Holmes) having read the agreement, the Chairman explained that the Zambesia Company were to be given the opportunity of replacing, by fresh shares of this company, the shares sold for financing this company, at the price at which such shares were sold. The resolutions were carried.

ZAMBESIA EXPLORING.

THE ordinary general meeting of the Zambesia Exploring Company, Limited, was held on Thursday at Winchester House, E.C., Mr. Tyndale Whyte (chairman of the company) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. L. Scotland) having read the notice calling the meeting and also the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said that owing to the company's large interest in the Tanganyika Concessions, at whose meeting he had the pleasure of already addressing some of the shareholders now present, special attention had been given to that concern, and expenses elsewhere had been reduced to a minimum. The shares and debentures which they held in other companies were entered in the balance-sheet at cost price or under, although at the date of making up the accounts they showed a considerable appreciation. Even taking them at the mid-December prices there was a surplus of about £160,000 on the more marketable assets. The debit balance at profit and loss account was more than balanced by the sums written off in respect of claims abandoned. Against the amount of management and engineering charges, they received a proportion of the profits of the firm of Robert Williams and Co. in cash, and, in addition, they had acquired 2,000 Tanganyika shares from Mr. Robert Williams at par, being the price at which that gentleman acquired them. This company's interests being so bound up with the welfare of the Tanganyika Company, they had financed that company to enable them to carry out their great enterprises. To do so without sacrificing this company's other assets, arrangements were made to sell and give options on blocks of Tanganyika shares, an understanding having been come to by the board of the Tanganyika Company that these shares should be refunded, provided that their shareholders agreed to the same in general meeting. The Tanganyika Company were at present indebted to them to the extent of over £80,000, and it was proposed to take 20,000 Tanganyika shares at £4 each in part payment, and the balance in cash, with the option to receive back any further shares sold or given options on, so as to retain their large interest in that company, besides the 20,000 shares to be received for the loan. With regard to the new shares proposed to be issued, the board were taking this power so that when a favourable opportunity occurred a fresh issue might be made with a view to placing the company in a stronger financial position. In conclusion he moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. C. F. Rowsell. Mr. Robert Williams (managing director) stated that the efforts of the company during the past year had been chiefly confined to their interests in other companies, especially those north of the Zambesi and the Congo Free State. In Southern Rhodesia the conditions did not at present warrant any large expenditure. The policy adopted had been to retain those claims which gave any signs of turning out to advantage, and abandoning those from which no return was anticipated. The option which they had to purchase a one-half interest in the Benguella Concession was of considerable importance, as the mineral prospects within the territories of that concession were very good. He afterwards dealt fully with their holdings in the Tanganyika Concessions, Limited. The report was adopted.

An extraordinary general meeting was then held for increasing the capital to £300,000 by the creation of 30,000 new shares of £1 each, to approve a conditional agreement respecting the repayment of the sums advanced to the Tanganyika Company, and to authorise dealings between this company and the Tanganyika Company at the discretion of the board.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the resolutions, said the increase of capital was proposed in order that they might have shares in reserve, which they proposed to issue to the shareholders when a suitable moment arrived. The second resolution referred to the conditional agreement made with the Tanganyika Concessions, by which the latter, out of its proposed increase of capital, replaced the shares which had been sold by the Zambesia Company in order to finance the Tanganyika Company. The third resolution was really a pure formality, the object being to legalise the position as between the Tanganyika Concessions Company and the Zambesia Exploring Company. The Zambesia Company had floated and formed the Tanganyika Company; the boards of the two companies were identical, the secretary was the same, and the solicitor was the same, and they were advised that it was necessary to pass the resolution in order to put the position into a legal shape.

The resolutions were put to the meeting seriatim and unanimously passed.

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